Weekly Compilation of

Presidential Documents

Monday, April 8, 2002
Volume 38—Number 14
Pages 541–569

Contents

Addresses and Remarks

Middle East situation—541, 560
New York Governor Pataki and New York City Mayor Bloomberg, meeting—545
Pennsylvania
Fundraiser for gubernatorial candidate Mike Fisher in Philadelphia—555
Pennsylvania State University, Delaware County, in Media—551
Roundtable discussion with early childhood education experts in Media, remarks following—551
Radio address—541
Ready To Learn program—559
Super Bowl champion New England Patriots—550
Texas, remarks on the situation in the Middle East in Crawford—541
Trade promotion authority legislation and extension of the Andean Trade Preference Act—563
White House Easter egg roll—545

Communications to Federal Agencies

U.S. Contribution to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization, memorandum—549

Interviews With the News Media

Exchanges with reporters
Crawford, TX—541
Oval Office—545

Letters and Messages

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., anniversary of assassination, message—567

Proclamations

Cancer Control Month—547
National Child Abuse Prevention Month—548
National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day—567

Statements by the President

Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother of the United Kingdom—544

Supplementary Materials

Acts approved by the President—569
Checklist of White House press releases—569
Digest of other White House announcements—568
Nominations submitted to the Senate—569

Editor's Note: The President was at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on April 5, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is published pursuant to the authority contained in the Federal Register Act (49 Stat. 500, as amended; 44 U.S.C. Ch. 15), under regulations prescribed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, approved by the President (37 FR 23607; 1 CFR Part 10).

Distribution is made only by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* will be furnished by mail to domestic subscribers for $80.00 per year ($137.00 for mailing first class) and to foreign subscribers for $93.75 per year, payable to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The charge for a single copy is $3.00 ($3.75 for foreign mailing).

There are no restrictions on the republication of material appearing in the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*.

Week Ending Friday, April 5, 2002

The President's Radio Address

March 30, 2002

Good morning. Almost 7 months have passed since the attack on our country, and the shock and sadness of that day are still with us. For many, the grief and sense of loss will never fully pass, and they are in our thoughts, especially in this holy season.

The entire world is reminded again this week of the hope that lives and endures forever. For Jews and Christians, this is a time of joy and renewal. Passover celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people from oppression, by the hand of a faithful God. And tomorrow, Easter Sunday, many Christians will celebrate a hope that overcomes even death.

These holy days represent some of the most profound hopes of humanity, which are shared in many traditions. We feel our reliance on the Creator who made us. We place our sorrows and cares before Him, seeking God's mercy. We ask forgiveness for our failures, seeking the renewal He can bring.

Americans practice different faiths in churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples. And many good people practice no faith at all. For those who observe Easter and Passover, faith brings confidence that failure is never final, and suffering is temporary, and the pains of the Earth will be overcome. We can be confident, too, that evil may be present and it may be strong, but it will not prevail.

On September the 11th, a terrible evil was done to our country. America and the civilized world are now joined together in a great struggle against enemies who have no regard for innocent life. Grave challenges and dangers face us in this war. We cannot predict every turn ahead of us, yet in this season, we are assured that history is of moral design. Justice and cruelty have always been at war, and God is not neutral between them. His purposes are often defied but never defeated.

I hope that this holy season will bring renewal of faith to those who seek it and comfort to those who need it. And to all who observe these special days, I wish you a joyful Easter and a blessed Passover.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:37 a.m. on March 26 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on March 30. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 29 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on the Situation in the Middle East and an Exchange With Reporters in Crawford, Texas

March 30, 2002

The President. This morning I made a series of phone calls to world leaders to express my concern, listen to their concerns about the escalating violence in the Middle East.

We are at this point because there has not been enough done to fight off terror. All the leaders in the world must stand up against terror, must do everything in their power to cut off the funding to terrorist organizations, to prevent terrorist organizations from finding safe haven. And that especially applies to Chairman Arafat. I believe he can do a lot more to prevent attacks such as the one that just occurred in Tel Aviv.

I am deeply concerned about the loss of innocent lives. It breaks my heart when children and innocent women and innocent men lose their life. I fully understand Israel's need to defend herself. I respect that. It's a country that has seen a wave of suicide bombers come into the hearts of their cities and kill

innocent people. That country has a right to defend herself.

And as she does so, I urge that their Government, the Israeli Government, make sure that there is a path to peace as she secures her homeland. But they've got to keep in mind the need that there's got to be a peaceful solution at some point. I've been assured by the Israeli Government that—about the well-being of Chairman Arafat and that he won't be harmed.

I have heard him say that, well, in that he's confined, he can't do anything to secure—to help secure the region. I know he's got a lot of forces; he's got a lot of people that listen to him still; and he has got to speak out clearly. He's got to make it absolutely clear that the Palestinian Authority does not support these terrorist activities and use his security forces to prevent them from happening.

I've asked that General Zinni stay in the region. I think it's very important for our country to provide an opportunity for discussions, an opportunity for people to come together, and so Zinni will stay there. He will stay there to continue to push for a process that will ultimately get us into Mitchell, and Mitchell is the best hope for peace. It has been agreed to by the parties. It is an opportunity for those who love peace to have a framework for peace.

Last night the administration supported a U.N. Security Council resolution that urges there to be a cease-fire, to start a process that will end this cycle of violence. Here we are on one of holiest of holidays, and we're worried about people needlessly losing their lives. And our prayers and thoughts go to the families of the victims, and I pray for peace. And I urge all parties to recognize that there are terrorists in this world who can't stand the thought of peace, and all of us—all of us—must work together to condemn, find, and stop terrorist activities.

I'll be glad to answer a few questions.

Preventing Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, with this latest terrorist attack on a Tel Aviv cafe tonight with many apparent casualties, does Chairman Arafat in your opinion really have any control over these suicide bombers?

The President. I think Chairman Arafat can do a lot more. I truly believe that. I believe he needs to stand up and condemn, in Arabic, these attacks. He's got a security force, admittedly somewhat on the defensive right now. But nevertheless, there is a security force; there is a security apparatus. We've been dealing with the leaders of the security apparatus. And they have got to do a much better job of preventing people from coming into Israel to blow up innocent people.

The leaders in the region must do the same thing. Again, I was pleased that Crown Prince Abdullah spoke out so forcefully for what he called normalization. We support that. But there is no normalcy when day after day killers destroy innocent lives. All the leaders must join with governments such as ours to strongly condemn and stop terrorist activities.

I spoke to Jose Maria Aznar today. He's the head of the EU now, and he told me, he said, you know, the world must fight off these terrorists. And the region can do more, in my judgment. The Iranians must step up and stop sponsoring terrorism. The Syrians must participate. If people want peace in the region, there has got to be a united effort against terror, and I do believe Mr. Arafat can do more.

Diplomatic Efforts in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, you made a lot of phone calls today, but not to Sharon, not to Arafat. Why not, and what is the next U.S. step?

The President. Well, first of all, my administration has made a lot of phone calls into the region on a daily basis. Secretary of State Powell will be speaking to Prime Minister Sharon again.

Q. Today?

The President. Yes, today; soon, as I understand it, unless this current—this recent bombing has put the Prime Minister into a Cabinet meeting and therefore won't be able to take a phone call. But he was supposed to have made a call, like, right now.

Nevertheless, we're in constant touch with these governments, and the next step is to continue our call and our efforts and our push to fight off terror. It appears to me these aren't just isolated incidents. I mean, there's a pattern, a routine, and a constancy.

And so we will continue to lead, to talk and urge world leaders, particularly those in the region, to do everything they can to shut off the capacity of people to come and bomb.

Q. Why wasn't Arafat called by Powell today?

The President. He may be doing that; I just don't know. Mr. Arafat, he doesn't need a phone call from me. All he's got to do is watch what I just said, and that message will be delivered to him.

Q. Mr. President, have we reached a point where there needs to be a more aggressive and more visible and public U.S. effort to quell the violence? And will that include greater outreach to the nations in the region?

The President. Well, you may recall the Vice President has just returned from the region, which is a significant outreach. We're spending a great deal of time, in our capacity as the leader of a coalition against the war on terror, to continue not only our war in Afghanistan and elsewhere but also continuing to fight terror in this region.

And every phone call I make, I remind people that if you're interested in peace—and the leaders I've talked to are interested in peace—we have all got to come together to stop terror. Our role is very visible, and our role is very active. And I firmly believe that we can achieve a peace in the region, but not until—not until—there is a concerted, united effort to rout terror out.

Because what we're seeing is—we're seeing—for example, in South Carolina, I remember talking to you all and saying—this was on Thursday, saying—or Wednesday, saying that I was optimistic that we had a chance to get into Tenet. And by the time I got on the airplane and landed in Georgia, there had been this awful suicide bombing. And so it is a—it's clear to me the more progress we make toward achieving a cease-fire or meaningful security discussions, the more a killer organization will try to disrupt the process.

And therefore, the best way to make sure that we can get some meaningful dialog going is to secure the—is to help secure the region, in particular, Israel's homeland, by a united front against terror. It's essential that we—"we" meaning those who long for a peace—and again I repeat to you, every leader I've talked to said we need peace. But there needs to be a focused coalition effort in the region against peace—I mean, against terror, for peace.

Preventing Terrorism

Q. You mentioned a moment ago that Iran and Syria need to do more.

The President. Yes, I believe they do.

Q. Can you identify other countries in the region who need to do more than they're doing now?

The President. All the countries in the region must condemn terror, speak clearly about terror. I appreciate the fact that the Saudis have spoken about a vision for peace. I thought that was a very important statement. It recognized Israel's right to exist. And that's essential. The corollary to that is, in order for Israel to exist, terror must stop.

I can understand why the Israeli Government takes the actions they take. Their country is under attack. Every day there has been a suicide bombing, and every day the Government sees the loss of innocent life.

On the other hand, I understand why some Palestinians feel so hopeless. There is a—the loss of innocent life on the Palestinian side is too much. But the Palestinians, particularly those who long for a peaceful resolution, the independent statehood of the Palestinians—is a part of that peaceful solution, but they must do everything in their power to stop terrorist activity.

Q. On Iran and Syria, do you have any evidence that those countries are directly involved in the latest series of bombings?

The President. No, I do not have evidence. But I saw, for example, that Syria once again walked out of the U.N. when there was a reasonable resolution put forward. That should say something.

And secondly, I understand the connections between Hezbollah and Iran. And there has been no evidence—I don't know who's claiming credit for this bombing. I haven't seen Hezbollah's name mentioned. But nevertheless, that's terror; that's a terrorist organization, and—but no, I have no direct evidence. Nevertheless, I do know their influence in the region. And if they are interested in a peaceful resolution, they too need to be active about cutting off funds. And as you

may recall, there was a ship that was intercepted by the Israelis, that came from Iran full of weapons.

And so my point is, is that there needs to be a focused international effort to condemn—strongly condemn—as well as rout out terrorist activities. Otherwise, we will have a difficult problem in getting to a peaceful accord.

There has been a framework laid out, and now the efforts will be focused, like they have been, on getting into the framework. In the meantime, Israel will defend herself. And again, I understand that.

You will recall, as I said in my statement, that I hope Israel keeps in mind that there needs to be a road for peace. It's in the Israelis' interests, in my judgment, not only to defend herself but to keep in mind that there has got to be a peaceful resolution in order for her people to be able to grow up in a secure and peaceful world.

Israeli Action Against Chairman Arafat

Q. Can I follow up on that point? Do you think that—it seems as if, even if they're not trying to physically harm Arafat, that they're trying to undermine him, undermine his leadership with the Palestinians. Do you think that serves any purpose?

The President. I think Mr. Arafat could have done more 3 weeks ago and can do more today. I know I have been disappointed in his unwillingness to go 100 percent toward fighting terror. That includes using his security forces to help prevent suicide bombers from crossing certain lands, and that also means speaking out clearly, in his native tongue.

I fully understand the frustrations of the Israeli people. I sympathize, and I sympathize with the frustrations of the Palestinian people, those who long for normalcy, those who want to send their kids to school and go to work. There's got to be a much more concerted effort by Chairman Arafat and others to stop terror. Terror is—so long as there's this reign of terror, there will be no peace. So therefore, stopping terror will make the conditions ripe for peace.

Q. Mr. President, did we know in advance about the invasion? And what's your position now? Should the Israelis get out of the compound? Should they continue the military action or quit?

The President. Israel is a democratically elected government, and the Government is responding to the will of the people for there to be more security. And Israel will make the decisions necessary to defend herself.

My point to the Israeli Government is: As you do so, keep in mind there must be an avenue toward a peaceful settlement. As you defend yourself—and you have the right to do so—please keep in mind and work with the region to develop a strategy that will end up with a peaceful settlement.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:40 p.m. at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain; and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. The President also referred to the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001, and the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet.

Statement on the Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother of the United Kingdom

March 30, 2002

Laura and I were deeply saddened at the news of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. On behalf of the American people, we send our heartfelt condolences to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and to the people of the United Kingdom for this tremendous loss. She was a pillar of strength and inspiration to many people all over the world.

Laura and I and her many admirers throughout this Nation will miss her.

Remarks at the White House Easter Egg Roll

April 1, 2002

Welcome to the White House. Laura and I are so glad that you came this year, especially given what happened last year: It rained. But today we have beautiful weather, and we hope you have a great time here at the traditional Easter egg roll.

I want to thank all the members of my Cabinet and their family members who are here. I want to thank the children's book authors who are here. And we hope you listen to those who read books to you. We want to encourage you to read a lot. As a matter of fact, we think it's important that you read more than you watch TV.

I want to thank the entertainers who are here. Of course, I want to thank the Easter Bunny. [*Laughter*] We want to thank all the Embassies that are highlighting their spring traditions. I want to thank the volunteers who have worked so hard to make this a successful Easter egg roll.

You know, one of the things that children say to me all the time—they say, "I want to come see your home, Mr. President." I said, "This isn't our home. This is your home, and you're welcome to the yard of your home." We're so glad you're here.

Do you know that since 1878, Presidents have hosted this event. And it is our honor to continue this tradition. The first President who did so was a guy named Rutherford B. Hayes. He decided to have the Easter egg roll here at the White House because the Members of the United States Congress said you couldn't be—they wouldn't want to host the Easter egg roll anymore on the congressional grounds.

Just to show you we don't hold a grudge, we've invited Members of the U.S. Congress here. And you're welcome, and thank you all for coming. [*Laughter*]

I also am really looking forward to starting the Easter egg roll. I want everybody to have a great time here. It is our honor to host you all. And I'd like to end by this simple—this simple statement: May God bless your families, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:15 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Governor George E. Pataki and Mayor Michael Bloomberg and an Exchange With Reporters

April 1, 2002

Governor's Island Transfer

The President. I have just informed the Governor and the mayor, the Governor of New York and the mayor of New York City, that the Federal Government will transfer Governor's Island to the people of New York. I'll never forget choppering over Governor's Island with George and Rudy Giuliani, Mike Bloomberg's predecessor, and the two leaders talking about what good use Governor's Island could be put to.

Since that time, I've studied the statements of Mayor Bloomberg, who extensively talked about Governor's Island and how to improve Governor's Island and how to make it a center of educational excellence, something dear to George Pataki's heart. I looked at the law, looked at the circumstances, and decided this morning that this was the right thing for the U.S. Government, and it's the right thing for the people of New York.

I appreciate so very much the vision of these two leaders, and I appreciate their heartfelt concern for the citizens of New York City and the region. And so I want to welcome to the Oval Office with this piece of news.

George, why don't you say a few words?

[*At this point, Governor Pataki and Mayor Bloomberg made brief remarks.*]

The President. I know you will. Thanks. I'll be glad to answer a few questions.

Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority

Q. Mr. President, what specifically would you like for Chairman Arafat to do, what specific action you'd like him to take in the Middle East? And in light of the current situation in Israel, does the Bush doctrine on terrorism not apply in this case?

The President. Well, first of all, there will never be peace so long as there's terror. And all of us must fight off—fight terror. And you asked about Chairman Arafat. I'd like to see Chairman Arafat denounce the terrorist activities that are taking place, the constant attacks.

We've got a plan that will lead to peace, the security plan called Tenet; there's a political plan called Mitchell. Both sides have agreed to this plan, and we urge the parties to accept the Tenet plan so that we can bring some—a peaceful resolution to an issue that's affecting the lives of Palestinians and Israelis alike. There's a lot of innocent people who hurt in the region because of the senseless violence and senseless murder.

Q. Mr. President, I'd like to follow up on Sonya's [Sonya Ross, Associated Press] question. Under your doctrine, a terrorist or someone who aids a terrorist is the equivalent of a terrorist. So what's keeping Chairman Arafat—what's keeping you from labeling Chairman Arafat a terrorist?

The President. Chairman Arafat has agreed to a peace process. He's agreed to the Tenet plan. He's agreed to the Mitchell plan. He has negotiated with parties as to how to achieve peace. And of course, our hope is that he accepts the Tenet plan. That's what General Zinni is in the Middle East doing, working to get this Tenet agreement in place, which is a series of concrete steps to reduce the violence in the Middle East.

President's Involvement in Middle East

Q. There were various calls on the Sunday talk shows for you to become more actively involved in this process, sir. Is there any way you would do that?

The President. You know, they must have not been with me in Crawford when I was on the phone all morning long, talking to world leaders. We've just come from a National Security Council meeting where Colin Powell was recounting his phone conversations. We've got General Zinni in the region. We've got a Tenet plan, a Mitchell plan, a roadmap to what will be a peaceful resolution to this issue.

I hope that the world community will continue to condemn terror, and if they haven't condemned terror yet, start condemning terror. It's essential for the peace of the region and the world that we rout out terrorist activities, that we condemn those activities. Suicide bombers in the name of religion is simple terror. And the free world, the civilized world must band together to stop this kind of activity if we expect there to be peace and resolution in the Middle East.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel

Q. You've made clear, sir, that you believe that Chairman Arafat needs to do much more. Do you believe that Prime Minister Sharon is doing all he can to foster peace in the region?

The President. I think it's very important for the Prime Minister to keep a pathway to peace open, to understand that on the one hand, Israel should protect herself, and on the other hand, there ought to be a pathway, the capacity to achieve a peaceful resolution to this issue. It's important for Israel to understand that. They've signed on to the Tenet agreement, and they signed on to the Mitchell plan, and that is the pathway to peace. And I believe Prime Minister Sharon still accepts Tenet and still accepts Mitchell as the way to achieve a peaceful resolution.

I was very heartened a couple of weeks ago by the Saudi Arabia Crown Prince, when he talked about the need for the Arab world to recognize Israel's right to exist. It was a positive development. There were some positive things that were taking place in the region, until the terrorist suicide bombers start killing innocent people.

Governor's Island Transfer

Q. Mr. President, why give the island now? Can you tell us what——

The President. Why now, right this second?

Q. Well, why did you make the announcement today, and what persuaded you to transfer the island to the city? And also, was this in any way to help Governor Pataki in his reelection?

The President. Well, listen, he doesn't need my help to get reelected, for starters. He's got a great record. The people of New York are discerning voters. Well, most of the time they're discerning voters—[*laughter*]—if you know what I mean. [*Laughter*]

Q. No, what do you mean? [*Laughter*]

The President. Well, you're a smart guy; read between the lines. No, George Pataki has been a great Governor for New York. I made the announcement today because I had finished the necessary study of the issue, to make sure that we could transfer this property without congressional action. And I believe I can do that. It took a while to take a look at it.

It also requires—I wanted to make sure that the Governor and mayor would be using this property for education purposes. That's what the mayor said he would do; the Governor said he wanted to do that. They took a look at it and decided this is what they wanted to do. And it makes a lot of sense to me, and using it for education purposes will make it easier for me to facilitate the transfer, by the way.

Q. Mr. President, the previous administration didn't want—I was just wondering, what specifically persuaded you?

The President. Well, I took a look at it. I mean, it's a good question. I took a look at it. I listened to what George said. He's my friend; I trust his judgment. I've known him for a long time, and Rudy Giuliani as well—both of them were passionate in their appeal for us to consider transferring Governor's Island. And I knew Mike was very interested in enhancing the quality of education in New York City.

And I took a look at it. I came back—obviously, things didn't happen quickly after September the 15th trip, because we had a lot on our mind. But it took a while to work it through the White House staff, and it arrived on my desk sometime last week. And the recommendation was that we could transfer this property, if that's what I wanted to do. And it's something I want to do, because I think it's going to make the life of a city that has been tragically affected by killers and murderers better. And I think it will enhance the quality of education for the people of New York. And to me, that is a worthwhile and noble cause.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:15 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); and Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. The President also referred to the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; and the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Governor Pataki and Mayor Bloomberg. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7536—Cancer Control Month, 2002

April 1, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our Nation is making important progress in the fight against cancer. Today, 8.9 million Americans have survived this disease, and new studies indicate that both cancer incidence and death rates have declined in recent years. Research and new technology have helped improve our ability to prevent, detect, and treat cancer. We understand better and are communicating more effectively the preventative power of regular exercise, a balanced diet, not smoking, and greater health awareness. Despite this progress, cancer remains a major public health problem that affects millions of lives.

Each day, more than 1,500 Americans die from cancer and 3,500 are diagnosed with some form of the disease. But we are closing in on major breakthroughs that will lead to new cancer therapies and life-saving cures.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is leading the way as it explores hundreds of methods to combat and prevent cancer. Recognizing that early detection of cancer often makes a difference between life and death, the NCI is utilizing revolutionary genetic and biochemical processes to develop tests that more effectively detect cancer at its earliest stage.

Scientists are discovering that the use of ultraviolet light fluorescence to examine the lungs is more likely to identify precancerous lesions than current techniques. Other NCI researchers are investigating drugs that may

stop cancerous growths by preventing new blood vessels from reaching the tissues. And a new class of drugs, known as bisphosphonates, shows great promise against cancer that has spread to the bone. The NCI's important work, in coordination with other public and private health agencies, is helping to reduce the incidence of cancer and is assisting cancer survivors to lead richer, fuller, and longer lives.

The National Comprehensive Cancer Control Initiative, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is a valuable resource to support and coordinate cancer control efforts at the Federal, State, and local levels. This project helps ensure that cancer prevention, detection, and treatment programs across the country work effectively with each other by reducing duplicated efforts and missed opportunities. My Administration is strongly committed to the fight against cancer and will continue to support Federal cancer control programs.

As we observe Cancer Control Month, I applaud the scientists, healthcare providers, and public health professionals who work tirelessly to find cures for this disease and to aid and assist the patients who suffer from it. I call on all our citizens to learn more about cancer by contacting the NCI's Cancer Information Service at 1–800–4–CANCER or visiting its Internet address at http://www.cancer.gov. I also encourage all Americans to protect their health by promoting cancer awareness in their families and communities. Individuals should pursue a lifestyle that includes regular exercise, sufficient consumption of fruits and vegetables, avoidance of tobacco products, and regular age-appropriate cancer screenings. By working together to raise awareness about the risks of cancer and the importance of medical research, we can improve the quality of life for millions of Americans and ultimately defeat this terrible disease.

In 1938, the Congress of the United States passed a joint resolution (52 Stat. 148; 36 U.S.C. 103) as amended, requesting the President to issue an annual proclamation declaring April as "Cancer Control Month."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2002 as Cancer Control Month. I call on concerned citizens, government agencies, private industry, nonprofit organizations, and other interested groups to reaffirm our Nation's commitment to preventing and curing cancer.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 9, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 10.

Proclamation 7537—National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2002

April 1, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Every child deserves to be cared for by parents who provide love, protection, and nurturing. Safe and healthy childhoods help produce confident and successful adults. When parents are unable to meet their responsibilities, the consequences are tragic for their children and for society. Nationwide, reports show that more than 879,000 children are victims of child abuse and neglect and approximately 1,200 children die from maltreatment, many at the hands of those who are supposed to protect them.

Children who are abused and neglected often carry the effects of their experiences into adulthood. They are much more likely to experience problems with substance abuse, depression, learning disabilities, and to engage in criminal activities and violence against others, including abuse of their own children. The societal effects of child abuse include the need for increased child welfare services, special education resources, physical and emotional health care services, and juvenile justice facilities.

My Administration is committed to promoting effective policies that protect children from harm while strengthening and supporting families. Promoting healthy marriages, and teaching responsible fatherhood and motherhood, are key priorities of my Administration. Last year, I worked with the Congress to provide an additional $70 million for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program, which is helping States ensure children's safety, permanency, and well-being. This program is designed to strengthen families at risk and prevent abuse and neglect. My 2003 budget includes a substantial increase of $130 million for this essential program.

The problem of child abuse requires a continuing national commitment, and we must remain vigilant in working to provide safety and security to each young person in our society.

Government alone cannot prevent child abuse. Child abuse prevention requires partnerships among Federal, State, and local governments, faith-based and community-based organizations, schools, law enforcement, and social service agencies. All of these organizations must work together with parents to protect children and help build healthy families and communities where children can reach their potential.

Every April, communities across the country join to raise public awareness about child abuse, to provide information about how to prevent it, and to assist families in need of support, recovery, and encouragement. During National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and throughout the year, I encourage all Americans to find ways to cherish our children, and strengthen our families.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2002 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month by supporting the hard work of those who ensure our children's safety, and by playing an active role in creating a safer, healthier environment for our children's growth.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 9, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 10.

Memorandum on the United States Contribution to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization

April 1, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002–12

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: U.S. Contribution to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO): Determination Regarding Funds Under the Heading "Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs" in Title II of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002 (Public Law 107–115)

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 565(c) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002 (Public Law 107–115) (the "Act"), I hereby determine that it is vital to the national security interests of the United States to furnish up to $95 million in funds made available under the heading "Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs" of that Act, for assistance to KEDO, and, therefore, I hereby waive the requirement in section 565(b) to certify that:

(1) The parties to the Agreed Framework have taken and continue to take demonstrable steps to implement the Joint Declaration on Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula;

(2) North Korea is complying with all provisions of the Agreed Framework; and

(3) The United States is continuing to make significant progress on eliminating the North Korean ballistic missile threat, including further missile tests and its ballistic missile exports.

You are hereby authorized and directed to report this determination and the accompanying Memorandum of Justification to the Congress, and to arrange for publication of this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 2.

Remarks Honoring the 2002 Super Bowl Champion New England Patriots

April 2, 2002

The President. I'm honored to welcome the Super Bowl champ Patriots to the Rose Garden. I want to thank their owner, Bob Kraft, for his leadership. And of course, I want to thank their coach. Coach Bill has brought a lot of organization and clarity of purpose to this organization. I can remember when they were down on you a little bit—I know how you feel. [*Laughter*]

As a matter of fact, the Patriots learned an interesting lesson. I remember watching all the experts talk about the Super Bowl. No one thought they'd win. They learned what I learned, that in politics and sports, the experts are often wrong.

I was really impressed by the character of this team. Most of all—I obviously watched the game—I was amazed at the play and how they won. For a guy growing up in Texas, that snow game looked pretty rough. [*Laughter*] But I know all the Patriot fans were thrilled with that game and the Super Bowl. I know you've got some great fans here.

Obviously, Members of the Congress are great fans. It's good to see Senator Kennedy, Senator Jeffords, who are here. I don't know if any Members of the Congress are here as well, but I want to thank you both for coming.

I was impressed by a lot, but let me tell you what impressed me most was when the team took the field prior to the Super Bowl. It wasn't one of these things where the spotlight was on any individual; everybody went out at the same time. I thought that was a pretty good signal to America that teamwork is important, that the individual matters to the team, but the team is bigger than the individual. That's one of the things I try to explain to people in Washington, that we're here to serve something greater than ourself. And I appreciated so very much that signal to the country.

I remember watching the early Patriots there in Houston, when they came down to the AFL. And I remember Gino Cappelletti. And Gino Cappelletti said this about this team—I think you probably remember Gino Cappelletti, don't you, Senator Kennedy? You were around in those days—[*laughter*]—barely, but around. "I think every guy that ever played for the Patriots would be proud of this bunch. They are not only a team with great heart and toughness; they're also a good group of guys. They were champs on the field and, more importantly, champs off the field"—by sending not only a clear message about the importance of teamwork but about the importance of serving something greater than yourself in life, whether it be the Salvation Army in the Boston area or after-school programs so some child realizes somebody cares about them or how they conduct their own home life—is just as important to me and America, for that matter, than winning on the football field. So it's an honor to welcome true football champs but as well really fine Americans to the Rose Garden.

Congratulations.

[*At this point, Robert Kraft, chairman and owner, and Bill Belichick, head coach, made brief remarks and presented the President with a team jersey and an autographed football.*]

The President. I appreciate that. Thank you, sir. That is short. [*Laughter*] Congratulations. Congratulations to you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:25 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gino Cappelletti, retired Patriots wide receiver. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Robert Kraft and Bill Belichick.

Remarks Following a Roundtable Discussion With Early Childhood Education Experts in Media, Pennsylvania

April 2, 2002

I just finished a discussion about early childhood development. I want to thank the experts and the teachers and the soon-to-be teachers and those who are running Head Start programs for sharing their knowledge with Secretary Paige and me.

One thing is for certain: In order for all Americans to realize the American Dream, we've got to make sure every child has the necessary foundation to be good readers, good writers, good comprehenders, which means that this Nation must do a better job of focusing our education strategy on early childhood development programs.

We've got to encourage parents to be good readers, good nurturers for their children. We've got to work with Head Start centers to make sure that they've got the curriculum necessary to teach every child the building blocks for reading. We've got to work with States, to encourage States to develop a strategy that will help focus time and attention and resources on the programs that will not only give children the basics for reading but give children the essential nourishment so that they can become ready to compete in the public school system in America.

I assured our panelists here that while I'm spending a lot of time on making sure America is safe and secure, that this initiative is a crucial initiative. It's an essential part of completing the education reforms that Senator Kennedy and Congressman Boehner and both Republicans and Democrats worked on last year and I had the honor of signing.

So this is a great initiative and a wonderful group of Americans that are here to discuss this. I'm real proud of your work. I want to thank you for your care and compassion for our fellow citizens.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:33 p.m. in the Commons/Athletic Center at Pennsylvania State University, Delaware County.

Remarks at Pennsylvania State University, Delaware County, in Media

April 2, 2002

Gosh, thanks for that warm welcome. It's an honor for me to be here today to talk about a subject that's dear to my heart and a subject very important to the country, which is the education of every child in America.

I just had the honor of meeting with a panel of experts from not only the State of Pennsylvania but from around the country: teachers, soon-to-be teachers, people who deeply care about the education of every single person. I want to thank them for their input. I want to thank them so very much for their idealism. And I want to thank you for your commitment to our country.

Three months ago I had the honor of signing what is called the No Child Left Behind Act. It's a piece of education reform, and I believe we'll have—it was the beginning of a new era of education in America. Through high standards and accountability, we're going to make sure that every school in America is ready to teach.

Now we must take another essential step. We must make sure that every child enters school ready to learn—every child—not just one, not just a few, but every single child. On this issue we know what works, and we know our responsibilities. As parents, teachers, and caregivers, we must give our children the lifelong gift of early learning. And today I'm here to outline specific measures to help meet that goal.

Before I do so, I want to say how sorry I am that my wife, Laura, isn't with me. The reason why is because early childhood education has been a lifelong mission of hers. In Texas and in Washington, she is a strong advocate for reading to our Nation's youngest children. She will work to bridge the gaps between scientists, policymakers, and caregivers on this issue. I'm grateful for her leadership. America is beginning to understand why I asked her to marry me. [*Laughter*] A lot of people are still wondering why she said yes. [*Laughter*]

I'm also honored to be traveling today with Rod Paige, who's the Secretary of Education.

You know, when I came to—I was trying to figure out who best to serve in that important position. I wanted somebody who had worked in the trenches. Rod was the superintendent of schools in the Houston Independent School District. He believed in setting high standards for every child and believed strongly in accountability. And his record was a good one, because more and more children were learning. And so I'm honored that Rod took time out of his life to come up to Washington, DC, to serve our Nation, and he's doing a fine, fine job.

I want to thank Dr. Spanier, Graham Spanier, for his hospitality. It's good to see you again, sir, and thank you for being the president of Penn State. I want to thank Ed Tomezsko, Dr. Tomezsko, for his hospitality on this beautiful campus. Thanks for letting us come.

I appreciate my friend the Senator from Pennsylvania, Arlen Specter, for being here as well. Thank you. The Governor of Pennsylvania, Mark Schweiker, is here. Thank you, Governor, appreciate you being here. And I want to thank the attorney general, Mike Fisher, for being here as well. And I want to thank my friend the Congressman from this part of the country, Curt Weldon. I appreciate you being here, sir.

I have constantly reminded America that one way to fight evil is to do some good. If you're interested in helping our country, love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. Today, out at the airport, I got the honor of meeting a fellow named Stan Braxton. Stan used to work for IBM. And he's retired, but he hasn't quit working, because what he decided to do was to help make people's lives better. He works in an after-school program. He provides technical assistance to nonprofit organizations in the Philadelphia area. I appreciate you coming, Stan. Do you mind standing up for a second? [*Applause*] Thank you for coming.

Out of this incredible evil done to our country is going to come some good. I truly believe it. And part of the good is that the armies and the soldiers—the soldiers in the armies of compassion are going to increase all around America. More Stans will say, "What can I do to help America?" Stan is a living example of somebody who puts service to mankind ahead of his retirement, for example. And so, Stan, thank you for serving as a great example for our country.

You need to know that even though the subject of today's talk is early childhood development, I am going to be relentless and tireless in our pursuit of justice and to make sure the homeland is secure. We fight for not only the security of our country; we fight for freedom. We love freedom in America, and we will defend freedom at all costs. And we long for peace. We want peace all around the world. In order to make sure the world is peaceful, we must stand strong against terror and rout out terror wherever it exists. And as the war continues, though, it is important for our Nation to remember we have other important responsibilities. As we fight to defend our ideals, we must also work to realize those ideals.

We stand for equal opportunity. It's one of the ideals we believe in, in America. And equal opportunity demands schools that are effective and excellent. We must give all our children, every single child in America, the basics of knowledge and character, and we must leave no child behind. My administration will not be distracted from these goals. As we fight for freedom, I also understand that freedom means no child in America will be left behind. The new civil right in America is reading.

We made a tremendous start in our country when it comes to education reform, because of the hard work of both Republicans and Democrats. I signed a significant piece of legislation that sets high standards, requires assessment in grades three-through-eight, accountability to determine whether or not our children are actually learning. And if they are, we will have the basis to praise the teachers who are working tirelessly to see so. But if not, we'll have the capacity to correct problems early, before it's too late.

This bill offers new resources to schools, a lot of new resources to encourage success and options for parents in the case of failure. Accountability is now at the center of American education, because we believe every child can learn in America. We don't accept excuses, and we want to make sure no child is left behind.

Yet, for accountability and annual assessments to mean something, all children must start school with the basic skills necessary for learning. In order for this piece of reform to really work, we've got to make sure that every child starts at the same point. If we expect achievement from every child, all our children need to begin school with an equal chance at achievement, is what I'm saying. Every child must have an equal place at the starting line—not some children, not just those who live in rural Pennsylvania, and not those who live in urban Pennsylvania or vice versa. Every child—that is the national goal.

From years of research—and as I say, this campus has today hosted some of the great researchers in America—we know what an equal chance at achievement means. It certainly means encouraging a child's social and emotional development. No question about that. But it also means that children, before entering school, know letters of the alphabet and begin to know the sounds these letters make.

They must learn what the written word looks like and must build a strong vocabulary. And they must be excited about reading, because they've seen others do it. The way to make a child excited about reading is for them to watch others read, like their parents. Reading is the foundation for all of learning, and that foundation is built early by exposing young children to the wonders of books and the uses of language. Reading to a child early and often can change a child's life.

Like many parents, Laura and I saw this firsthand. Ever since our twins, our twin daughters, were toddlers, we would read to them at every possible opportunity. Sometimes, when I sleep at night, I think of "Hop on Pop." [*Laughter*] We found it to be fun, and it's important for parents to understand that it's a part of the responsibility for being a good mom or a dad to read to your children.

But it's more than just fun. It is a vital preschool learning experience. Consider this amazing finding: 10th grade reading scores can be predicted with surprising accuracy from a child's knowledge of the alphabet in kindergarten. Think about that. We can pretty well predict how well a child will read in the 10th grade if that child has been given a—whether or not the child has been given a good education early in his or her life.

A child who cannot identify the letters of the alphabet in his or her first year of school runs a real risk of staying behind in school throughout her or his career. We cannot accept this in America. To close the achievement gap in our schools, we must close the early childhood education gap in our society. Today I pledge my administration's support in working with parents and families, Head Start and childcare centers, and our States to achieve this goal. Every child who goes to school, every single child, must be ready to learn.

As many of you know, as I mentioned, parents play a huge role, play the most important role. A parent is a child's first and most influential teacher—for many children, their only teacher until kindergarten. For most parents, helping their child learn is a joy; it's not a chore. Yet, learning activities really are not common enough. And we must encourage parents in this essential responsibility of preparing their children to learn. We must help them.

Many parents wish their children came with an instruction manual. All new parents need good information about child development; that's for sure. So later this month, Laura will be launching a series of booklets based on the best scientific research that give suggestions on child development at crucial early stages of a child's life.

I've asked the Secretaries of Education and Health and Human Services and Agriculture to make these publications widely available to families with newborns all across the country. These publications will be offered through a variety of programs that serve our Nation's families: WIC clinics, State departments of education, State health and human service agencies.

The White House and these agencies will also have these booklets ready, available online. I want to thank Laura and those who have helped her design these books for working hard to make this an incredibly important issue in America. And all these efforts will promote early childhood learning where it matters most—right there in the home.

After parents, Head Start centers have some of the greatest potential to encourage

early childhood learning. Many of them are already doing a terrific job. We had a chance to hear from one such center today.

Laura and I were deeply impressed by the Margaret Cone Center in Dallas, Texas, which uses a curriculum rich in pre-reading and vocabulary development activities. Before this curriculum was introduced in 1994, graduating classes who left the Cone Center and entered the local public schools scored as low as the 21st percentile on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. After 1994, after this scientific-based curriculum had been introduced, Cone classes have scored as high as the 94th percentile in vocabulary and reading. It matters what the curriculum is in these centers. Head Start centers are a Federal responsibility, and we're determined to encourage the kind of quality that we see in centers such as the Cone Center.

We must focus Head Start on the pre-reading and language development of children, so the Department of Health and Human Services will implement an accountability system for every Head Start center in America. In addition to providing essential health and social services, centers must enhance activities for children to acquire language and number skills. These activities can and should be done in ways that are appropriate for younger children, in ways that work.

Every Head Start center in America must teach these skills and must demonstrate that its teaching is effective. We want to make sure that we understand—that the Head Start programs understand—we know what works. We want to measure the input. We want to say that in return for Federal taxpayers' help, we expect you to be providing the foundation for reading and math.

And to help Head Start centers meet these standards, we'll begin a major new effort to prepare Head Start teachers. In order for this to work, we must give our Head Start teachers the tools necessary to meet our goal. Our goal is to reach the nearly 50,000 Head Start teachers over the next 12 months by giving them the tools necessary to teach basic skills to our children.

This summer the Department of Health and Human Services will give intensive, research-based training to 2,500 early literacy specialists, who will then instruct Head Start teachers around the country. And starting today, we'll distribute a guidebook for early childhood educators and caregivers. It's called "Teaching Our Youngest." It contains proven teaching activities to help children develop their language abilities, increase their knowledge, and discover a love for books and reading and learning.

We're also asking States to do their part. The Federal Government provides States with considerable funds for childcare. In fact, over the past decade, Federal funding for early childhood programs has nearly tripled. Yet, many children are still showing up in kindergarten not ready to learn. That's going to change.

We propose that States receiving these Federal funds must submit a plan to promote early childhood education. States must take steps to provide pre-kindergarten programs with guidelines on pre-reading and literacy skills, and they must have a plan to expand the training of childcare and preschool teachers in their State.

Just as States care about health and safety of children's bodies, they must also care about the health and progress of the children's minds. I know your Governor cares a lot about that here in Pennsylvania.

Anyone who is serious about educational reform must be serious about early childhood education. If we want all our children reading by the third grade—and that's what we want—then all our children must be ready to learn on their first day of school. This will require Americans to work together—families, teachers, caregivers, civic groups, along with government on every level.

I look forward to working with leaders in Congress on this important issue, especially Senators Kennedy and Gregg, and Congressmen Boehner and Miller. Here's what I think: Where America's children are concerned, there is no Republicans or Democrats, only moms and dads, grandpas and grandmas, all eager to help our youngest citizens succeed.

As we try harder to serve our children better, we ought to keep in mind the wise words of Theodore Geisel—he, better-known as Dr. Seuss, the guy who wrote "Hop On Pop." [*Laughter*] "Children want the same things

we want, to laugh, to be challenged, to be entertained and delighted." We want our children, even the youngest children in America, to be challenged and entertained and delighted by learning. This is a responsibility of every parent, and it's a great calling for our great country.

Thank you for coming, and may God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:43 p.m. in the school's gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Edward S.J. Tomezsko, campus executive officer, Pennsylvania State University, Delaware County; and Mike Fisher, State attorney general of Pennsylvania. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at a Fundraiser for Gubernatorial Candidate Mike Fisher in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

April 2, 2002

Thank you very much. Well, "Governor," thank you for those kind words. I want to thank you all for coming, and thanks for that warm welcome. It's good to see so many friends. I want to thank you all for supporting the next Governor from Pennsylvania. I've been here quite a bit since I've been President, but I learned a new fact recently that made me a little nervous. I didn't realize this, but Pennsylvania has more pretzel bakeries—[*laughter*]—than any State in the Union. [*Laughter*] So I decided to take a risk. [*Laughter*]

I love coming to Philadelphia. I love the history of Philadelphia. I love the fact that Philadelphia is the cradle of freedom; that's what I love.

Mike mentioned Tom Ridge. You know, my biggest job is to defend freedom, is to protect our homeland. And you know better than anybody, I picked a really good man to lead the homeland defense of the United States. I want to thank you for letting Tom cut his eyeteeth here. [*Laughter*] He did a great job as Governor. He's doing a really good job in Washington.

And I want to thank Mark Schweiker as well. He's doing a fantastic job as Governor. Thank you, Mark. Pennsylvania has had two fine Governors. It's time to make three Governors in a row. I'm proud to be here on stage with Mike and the future Lieutenant Governor. There's no doubt in my mind they will both do a fine job, an excellent job, for the people of Pennsylvania. I'm also honored to be here with your senior Senator, Arlen Specter. Thank you very much, Arlen, for coming. I had the privilege of traveling from the University of Pennsylvania, in Delaware County, to the hotel with Jane Earll. She's solid on the issues. She knows what she's talking about.

I'm also honored to be here with David Girard-diCarlo and Manny Stamatakis. These guys were my friends before I was somebody—[*laughter*]—and I'm proud to call them friend. I want to thank them for their hard work, and I want to thank you all for contributing your hard-earned dollars to this good candidate. I also want to thank the leaders of the political party here, the chairman and the national committeeman and national committeewoman, all of whom are willing to provide the grassroots support necessary for candidates like me and Mike to succeed.

You know, fundraising is an integral part of politics but so is getting out the vote—so is those who are willing to spend a lot of time putting out the yard signs, dialing the phones, and doing all the hard work necessary to make candidates viable. On behalf of a grateful President, and a soon-to-be-grateful Governor, thank you for the grassroots politics here in Pennsylvania.

I also want to thank Carol Fisher, Mike's wife, for her willingness to make a huge sacrifice on behalf of a good man running for Governor. I know something about good wives. I'm very fortunate to have a good wife, myself. Laura is doing a great job as our First Lady. She is a steady hand. She was a public school librarian when I married her and really wasn't all that keen on politics. And if the truth be known, she wasn't all that thrilled about knowing politicians, either. [*Laughter*] But she is where she is, thank goodness. Thank goodness for my family, and thank goodness for the country. The American people have gotten to see why I asked Laura to marry me. There's still a lot of doubts in people's minds as to why she said yes. [*Laughter*] But I'm proud of her, and I want

you to know she's doing great, and so is my family.

I think there's a lot of reasons for the people of Pennsylvania to support Mike. First, he's done a good job as the attorney general. He's been given a huge responsibility, and he performed. He's one of these fellows that does in office what he said he would do, and that's refreshing.

Mike has led the fight against drugs, and he's made a difference. As I understand it, there's been over 6,000 arrests made to make sure Pennsylvania streets are safe from those who would sell drugs. But he also knows what I knew, that we've also got to work on demand. We've got to make sure our youngsters understand that drugs will destroy their lives and ruin their hopes. Mike can take this to the Governor's office and make a huge difference for the citizens of Pennsylvania.

He also has been making sure Pennsylvania stays safe. He's a tough crimefighter. He makes it clear that there are consequences for bad behavior in the State of Pennsylvania. And that will stand him in good stead when he becomes the Governor as well.

We had a chance to talk about education today in the car. I was promoting an early childhood reading initiative here in the Philadelphia area. Mike knows what I know, that we must set high standards for every child, that we must expect the best from every single child, and that we must hold people accountable for results. It's fine for States and the Federal Government to spend money, but for that money we expect our children to learn how to read and write and add and subtract. And if the status quo is unacceptable, if children are not learning to read and write and add and subtract, it's important to have somebody in the Governor's office who is willing to say, "That is not good enough. The fact that children can't read and write and add and subtract is not satisfactory to me, because every child counts in America, and no child should be left behind."

It is important to have a Governor who sets high standards and expects the best and a Governor who is willing to challenge a system that simply shuffles children through. During the campaign, I called that the soft bigotry of low expectations. Mike understands that we must hold people accountable, that we must insist upon basic education. We must challenge failure wherever we find it, in order for the American Dream to reach every neighborhood in every community in every State of our Nation. And I want to thank Mike for that.

I had the honor of working on and signing a substantial piece of education legislation, a significant reform. I was able to work with Senator Kennedy and Senator Gregg and Congressmen Boehner and Miller to get this done. The Federal Government spends a lot of money on education, and finally we're beginning to say, "What are the results? Can our children actually do what we expect them to do?"

In that bill not only do we insist upon strong accountability to show us whether or not we're achieving standards, but we pass a lot of power back to the States, where power belongs. I fully recognize one size does not fit all when it comes to public education all across America. It's important for Governors to be empowered to meet high standards. And therefore, it's important to have good Governors, who understand high standards and accountability, in the Governors' offices all across America. Mike Fisher will be such a Governor.

And as Mike said, he understands the importance of empowering the private sector in order to create jobs. Governments don't create wealth; governments must create an environment in which the entrepreneurial spirit flourishes.

Mike believes in lower taxes, and so do I. You might remember, I came to Pennsylvania a lot, saying, "If you give me a chance to be your President, I will work with Congress to cut the taxes on the people who work in America." And that's exactly what we did. And not only did we do that, we did it at the right time in Washington, DC.

You see, when the economy slows down, like it had, it's important to let people have more of their own money, so they can spend it. When people have more of their own money, it creates demand. And when people demand more goods and services, somebody will produce the goods and services. And when somebody produces the goods and services, somebody can find work. The best

way to make sure America goes back to work is to trust the American people with their own money.

Now, there are some in Washington who don't understand that, but they read a different textbook than Mike and I do. There are some who say, the more money the Federal Government has, the better off America will be. That's not the way I think. That's not the way Mike thinks. And history will prove us right. By cutting taxes, we saved the country from a significant recession.

I remember campaigning in Chicago one time, and the guy said, "Would you ever deficit spend?" I said, "Well, only if we were at war or the country was in recession or there was a national emergency." [*Laughter*] I didn't realize we were going to get the trifecta. [*Laughter*] We're dealing with the issue of our economy, and I want you to know that we're dealing with the issue of war and our national emergency as well.

I mentioned Tom. Our job is to make sure that if anybody hits us again, the Nation can respond. We've got a great first-responders initiative. I had the honor of meeting the fire chief of Philadelphia and leaders of the Philadelphia police force, those who lead the brave men and women who are on the frontline of dealing not only with crime but with any emergency that may come.

We've got a significant amount of money in our budget to protect the American people. Not only are we going to bolster our first-responders, to provide them more training and more equipment in order to respond; we're going to make sure our border security is better. We want to know who's coming into the United States and why they're coming in and if they're leaving when they're supposed to be leaving. We've got a bioterrorism initiative to put in place a response mechanism if the enemy were to use a biological weapon or a chemical weapon on America. In other words, we're buttoning up the homeland security of the country.

You also need to know that any time we get any kind of hint that somebody may try to harm Americans, we will respond. We've got much better dialog between our Federal and State and local law enforcement officials. Our intelligence gathering is better than it's ever been. Our information sharing is very sound.

I wake up every morning, and I get into the great, beautiful Oval Office, and I read a threat assessment. It reminds me that we're still threatened. But I'm here to tell you, our country is responding. We're diligent. We're alert. We know our mission, and we know our priority. But the best way to defend the homeland, the best way to make sure our little ones can grow up in a peaceful world, is to find the enemy wherever they try to hide and bring them to justice.

When our—when the enemy hit us, I couldn't understand what was going through their mind. They must have thought our Nation was so self-absorbed and so materialistic that all we would do would be to file a lawsuit. [*Laughter*] They sure were wrong.

I said some things, and I meant them. I said to those nations around the world, if you think you can hide one of those terrorists or feed them or harbor them, you're just as guilty as the terrorists. And thanks to the United States military and a vast coalition of freedom-loving nations, the Taliban found out exactly what I meant.

Every chance I get, I try to stress, particularly to the young in America, that ours is a nation that doesn't seek revenge; we seek justice. And that we went into a country like Afghanistan not as conquerors but as liberators. I want to remind you all that, as a result of our military action in Afghanistan, we saved thousands of people from starvation. And as importantly, schools opened up to young girls. For the first time, many young girls got to go to school. I'm so proud of the compassion of America. I'm proud of our strength, but I'm equally as proud of the compassion of this great nation.

But we're just starting in Afghanistan, and there's still a lot of work to be done there. Afghanistan is still a dangerous place, and wherever we find them bunched-up or wherever we find their leaders, we're in hot pursuit. We're teaching these people—treating these people the way they need to be treated.

You need to understand: These are cold-blooded killers. These are people who hijacked a religion so they can kill for means which freedom-loving people can't understand. They hate America. They hate what

we stand for. They cannot stand the thought that we worship freely in America. They hate the thought that there's viable political discourse. They can't stand the thought that we're a free country, that everybody has got an equal chance in America. And so they want to harm us.

We're going to treat them as international crooks, and we're going to get them on the run. And like you read in the newspapers or saw on your TV screens, we're hunting them down one by one. Our Nation is resolved. Our Nation is united. Our Nation understands that we're in this for the long haul. History has called us into action. History has said to America, "Are you going to defend freedom or not?" And the answer clearly is, you bet we're going to defend freedom.

And that's why I've submitted a budget to the United States Congress that significantly increases our defense spending. It's the largest increase in 20 years. And here's why. First, this is a long struggle, and it's not an easy struggle. And secondly, any time the United States commits our troops into harm's way, they must have the best equipment, the best training, the best possible pay. The price of freedom is high, no question about it. But it is not too high, as far as I'm concerned.

The world watches America very closely. They want to know: Are we serious; are we determined; will we tire and grow weary? Because if we do grow tired and grow weary, others will as well. They're going to find a determined administration who leads a determined country to defend freedom.

And I believe, as a result of being steadfast and strong and determined, we can achieve the peace. I long for peace, but I understand the road to peace can be really hard. But if America is strong and determined and we constantly keep the pressure on terrorist activities and terrorism, we can bring peace to places in the world that never thought they could have peace.

I've got a vision for the Middle East that says that Israel must be allowed to exist and be at peace with its neighbors. I appreciate the fact that Saudi Arabia spoke clearly about the need for Israel to be able to have normal relations with its neighbors, so that Israeli boys and girls can grow up in a peaceful society. I feel the same thing about the Palestinians. I hope that they can have their own peaceful state, at peace with their neighbor, Israel, a self-governing country, a country in which there is economic prosperity to end the hopelessness of many of the citizens who live there.

But there are those who want to destroy that vision. There are those who want to murder to make sure that vision never comes to be. The United States of America will stand strong and continue to insist that those who yearn for peace in the Middle East and other regions around the world must do everything they can to stop the terrorist activities all aimed at making sure that peace does not exist.

Now, out of this evil is going to come some good. A strong America will lead to a more peaceful world. And at home, we can fight evil as well. People say to me, "What can I do? What is it that I can do to help?" Well, you can love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. You see, in order to fight evil, this country can gather millions of acts of kindness and put a compassionate, kind face on our country. In order to fight evil, in order to stand squarely in the face of evil, we can let our hearts flow.

It doesn't take much; it really doesn't. Mentoring a child, teaching a child to read or telling a child you love them, a big brother or a big sister, a Boys and Girls Club member, is all part of defining the true face of America. You know, if you want to fight against—the war on terror, if you walk across the street to a shut-in and simply say, "Can I talk with you today," that in itself, is part of defining the true character of our country.

The way to fight evil is to help build character in our children. The way to fight evil is to tell your children you love them every single day, is to remember the most important job you'll ever have, if you happen to be a mom or a dad, is to love your son or your daughter with all your heart and all your soul. This country is going to win the war against evil, because not only are we militarily strong and determined, but because we're a nation that is so compassionate and so kind and so loving.

There is a new culture evolving in America. It's a culture that is shifting away from "if it feels good, do it," and "if you've got

a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture in which each of us understand that we are responsible for something greater than ourself. That was clearly defined on an airplane that crashed in Pennsylvania, when several people on that plane told their loved ones goodbye. They told them they loved them. They said a prayer. They said, "Let's roll," and drove an airplane into the ground to save other people's lives. It is a symbol of what is possible in America. It is a sign that there are people in this Nation willing to make a sacrifice to help a neighbor in need, willing to make a sacrifice to make their community a better place.

That's how you win the war on terror. You understand that there is a responsibility that comes with living in the greatest country on the face of the Earth. The great news is, America is rallying to the cause. I can't tell you what an honor it is to be the President of a nation full of such great and decent and compassionate and tough and firm and freedom-loving human beings.

I want to thank you all for coming. I want to thank you for supporting Mike Fisher. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:03 p.m. in the Ballroom at the Four Seasons Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Jane M. Earll, candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania; David Girard-diCarlo, cochairman, chief executive officer, and managing partner, Blank Rome Comisky & McCauley LLP; Manuel N. Stamatakis, president and chief executive officer, Capital Management Enterprises; Alan Novak, chairman, Robert Asher, national committeeman, and Christine J. Toretti, national committeewoman, Republican State Committee of Pennsylvania; and Harold B. Hairston, commissioner, Philadelphia Fire Department.

Remarks on the Ready To Learn Program

April 3, 2002

Thank you all. Thank you. Laura and I are honored to have you all here today, and thank you for coming. Some of you have been to the White House before, and I know we've got some first-time visitors here. For example, this will be the first time the Vowelles have ever been to the White House. [*Laughter*] Theo and Cleo Lion are also here to sing a song titled "W Trouble." [*Laughter*] I don't know the song, but the theme is familiar. [*Laughter*] My mom often used to say, "The trouble with W"—[*laughter*]—although she didn't put that to words.

We're delighted that so many children can be a part of this special event here in the East Room. Thank you all for coming. It's so good to see you. It is wonderful to see children so young and so eager to learn, with so many fun opportunities to learn together. Every child is born with a love of learning—every child. We adults have a responsibility to give them every possible chance to learn and to start early.

I appreciate the Secretary of Education, Rod Paige, for being here today. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. I want to thank all the good folks at PBS for coming. I appreciate your concern for our Nation's children. And as Laura said, we've been aware of your programming for a long time.

I notice that we've got a larger-than-usual contingent of White House staff here today. I know they're not here to see me. [*Laughter*] They're here to see Mr. Rogers. [*Laughter*] When he comes to the White House, it's sure to be a beautiful day in the neighborhood. [*Laughter*] It is impossible for us to count the number of lives you have touched. But you have had a huge impact on thousands and thousands of children. And there are thousands and thousands of parents and Americans who are grateful for your service to the country. In "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," every child is welcomed into the world of learning—not just a few, not just ones from certain neighborhoods, but every child.

Our goal as a nation must be to make sure that no child is denied the chance to grow in knowledge and character from their very first years. Public Broadcasting System has excelled in carrying out that responsibility. Shows like "Between the Lions" bring a combination of charm, creativity, inclusiveness, and as importantly, proven teaching methods to the task of educating young children. And these shows are being used in Head Start and day care centers to encourage early learning. The Ready To Learn program helps

make all these shows possible, and my administration is proud to support it.

America is making great progress in education reform. We're providing higher levels of support for our schools, higher standards for performance in the classrooms. We're giving teachers the resources and training necessary for their mission. We're respecting local control of our schools and respect the authority of parents, so that moms and dads have greater say in how their children are educated.

Under the bipartisan reforms we passed into law, all students in America have a better chance to learn and excel and to live out their dreams. Yet, as we prepare our schools to teach, we must prepare our children to learn. As we raise educational standards, which we must do, each of our children needs an equal opportunity to meet those standards.

And creating that opportunity must begin early, even before school starts. On the first day of school, children need to know letters and numbers. They need a strong vocabulary, and they need to love books. These are the building blocks of learning, and this Nation must provide them.

Early learning is a priority for my Government. By implementing a new accountability system, we'll make sure every Head Start center is providing early learning in the best way possible. Starting this summer, we will train Head Start teachers in proven methods to encourage early reading and language skills. And the Federal Government will work with States to promote early learning programs.

More than anyone else, parents need to be involved. Laura has begun an important effort to get new parents the information they need to start their sons and daughters on the path to learning. And we're so proud to be working with PBS and a host of other organizations to get this information out more broadly.

Reading to your children is a joy. We believe it's a responsibility. Parents are the first teachers in their children's lives, and they can also be the best.

I thank all the parents in this room for what you do and for the important example you set. I want to thank the teachers who are here for devoting yourselves to one of the great callings in life. I want to thank the broadcasters and others who play such an important part in the life of our country.

Again, welcome to the White House. May God bless the Nation's children. And may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:23 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to PBS television characters the Vowelles and Theo and Cleo Lion from the program "Between the Lions"; and Fred Rogers, creator, writer, and host of the PBS television series "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood."

Remarks on the Situation in the Middle East

April 4, 2002

Good morning. During the course of one week, the situation in the Middle East has deteriorated dramatically. Last Wednesday, my Special Envoy, Anthony Zinni, reported to me that we were on the verge of a cease-fire agreement that would have spared Palestinian and Israeli lives. That hope fell away when a terrorist attacked a group of innocent people in a Netanya hotel, killing many men and women in what is a mounting toll of terror.

In the days since, the world has watched with growing concern the horror of bombings and burials and the stark picture of tanks in the street. Across the world, people are grieving for Israelis and Palestinians who have lost their lives.

When an 18-year-old Palestinian girl is induced to blow herself up and in the process kills a 17-year-old Israeli girl, the future itself is dying—the future of the Palestinian people and the future of the Israeli people. We mourn the dead, and we mourn the damage done to the hope of peace, the hope of Israel's and the Israelis' desire for a Jewish state at peace with its neighbors, the hope of the Palestinian people to build their own independent state.

Terror must be stopped. No nation can negotiate with terrorists, for there is no way to make peace with those whose only goal is death.

This could be a hopeful moment in the Middle East. The proposal of Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, supported by the Arab League, has put a number of countries in the Arab world closer than ever to recognizing Israel's right to exist. The United States is on record supporting the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people for a Palestinian state. Israel has recognized the goal of a Palestinian state. The outlines of a just settlement are clear: two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

This can be a time for hope, but it calls for leadership, not for terror. Since September the 11th, I've delivered this message: Everyone must choose; you're either with the civilized world, or you're with the terrorists. All in the Middle East also must choose and must move decisively in word and deed against terrorist acts.

The Chairman of the Palestinian Authority has not consistently opposed or confronted terrorists. At Oslo and elsewhere, Chairman Arafat renounced terror as an instrument of his cause, and he agreed to control it. He's not done so.

The situation in which he finds himself today is largely of his own making. He's missed his opportunities and thereby betrayed the hopes of the people he's supposed to lead. Given his failure, the Israeli Government feels it must strike at terrorist networks that are killing its citizens.

Yet, Israel must understand that its response to these recent attacks is only a temporary measure. All parties have their own responsibilities, and all parties owe it to their own people to act.

We all know today's situation runs the risk of aggravating long-term bitterness and undermining relationships that are critical to any hope of peace. I call on the Palestinian people, the Palestinian Authority, and our friends in the Arab world to join us in delivering a clear message to terrorists: Blowing yourself up does not help the Palestinian cause. To the contrary, suicide bombing missions could well blow up the best and only hope for a Palestinian state.

All states must keep their promise, made in a vote in the United Nations, to actively oppose terror in all its forms. No nation can pick and choose its terrorist friends. I call on the Palestinian Authority and all governments in the region to do everything in their power to stop terrorist activities, to disrupt terrorist financing, and to stop inciting violence by glorifying terror in state-owned media or telling suicide bombers they are martyrs. They're not martyrs. They're murderers. And they undermine the cause of the Palestinian people.

Those governments, like Iraq, that reward parents for the sacrifice of their children are guilty of soliciting murder of the worst kind. All who care about the Palestinian people should join in condemning and acting against groups like Al-Aqsa, Hezbollah, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and all groups which oppose the peace process and seek the destruction of Israel.

The recent Arab League support of Crown Prince Abdullah's initiative for peace is promising, is hopeful, because it acknowledges Israel's right to exist. And it raises the hope of sustained, constructive Arab involvement in the search for peace. This builds on a tradition of visionary leadership, begun by President Sadat and King Hussein and carried forward by President Mubarak and King Abdullah. Now other Arab states must rise to this occasion and accept Israel as a nation and as a neighbor.

Peace with Israel is the only avenue to prosperity and success for a new Palestinian state. The Palestinian people deserve peace and an opportunity to better their lives. They need their closest neighbor, Israel, to be an economic partner, not a mortal enemy. They deserve a government that respects human rights and a government that focuses on their needs, education and health care, rather than feeding their resentments.

It is not enough for Arab nations to defend the Palestinian cause. They must truly help the Palestinian people by seeking peace and fighting terror and promoting development.

Israel faces hard choices of its own. Its Government has supported the creation of a Palestinian state that is not a haven for terrorism. Yet, Israel also must recognize that such a state needs to be politically and economically viable.

Consistent with the Mitchell plan, Israeli settlement activity in occupied territories

must stop. And the occupation must end through withdrawal to secure and recognized boundaries consistent with United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338. Ultimately, this approach should be the basis of agreements between Israel and Syria, and Israel and Lebanon.

Israel should also show a respect—a respect for and concern about the dignity of the Palestinian people who are and will be their neighbors. It is crucial to distinguish between the terrorists and ordinary Palestinians seeking to provide for their own families. The Israeli Government should be compassionate at checkpoints and border crossings, sparing innocent Palestinians daily humiliation. Israel should take immediate action to ease closures and allow peaceful people to go back to work.

Israel is facing a terrible and serious challenge. For 7 days, it has acted to root out terrorist nests. America recognizes Israel's right to defend itself from terror. Yet, to lay the foundations of future peace, I ask Israel to halt incursions into Palestinian-controlled areas and begin the withdrawal from those cities it has recently occupied. I speak as a committed friend of Israel. I speak out of a concern for its long-term security, a security that will come with a genuine peace.

As Israel steps back, responsible Palestinian leaders and Israel's Arab neighbors must step forward and show the world that they are truly on the side of peace. The choice and the burden will be theirs. The world expects an immediate cease-fire, immediate resumption of security cooperation with Israel against terrorism, an immediate order to crack down on terrorist networks. I expect better leadership, and I expect results.

These are the elements of peace in the Middle East, and now we must build the road to those goals. Decades of bitter experience teach a clear lesson: Progress is impossible when nations emphasize their grievances and ignore their opportunities. The storms of violence cannot go on. Enough is enough.

And to those who would try to use the current crisis as an opportunity to widen the conflict: Stay out. Iran's arms shipments and support for terror fuel the fire of conflict in the Middle East, and it must stop. Syria has spoken out against Al Qaida. We expect it to act against Hamas and Hezbollah as well. It's time for Iran to focus on meeting its own people's aspirations for freedom, and for Syria to decide which side of the war against terror it is on.

The world finds itself at a critical moment. This is a conflict that can widen or an opportunity we can seize. And so I've decided to send Secretary of State Powell to the region next week to seek broad international support for the vision I've outlined* today. As a step in this process, he will work to implement United Nations Resolution 1402, an immediate and meaningful cease-fire, an end to terror and violence and incitement, withdrawal of Israeli troops from Palestinian cities, including Ramallah, implementation of the already agreed-upon Tenet and Mitchell plans, which will lead to a political settlement.

I have no illusions; we have no illusions about the difficulty of the issues that lie ahead. Yet, our Nation's resolve is strong. America is committed to ending this conflict and beginning an era of peace.

We know this is possible, because in our lifetimes we have seen an end to conflicts that no one thought could end. We've seen fierce enemies let go of long histories of strife and anger. America itself counts former adversaries as trusted friends: Germany and Japan and now Russia.

Conflict is not inevitable. Distrust need not be permanent. Peace is possible when we break free of old patterns and habits of hatred. The violence and grief that trouble the Holy Land have been among the great tragedies of our time. The Middle East has often been left behind in the political and economic advancement of the world. That is the history of the region, but it need not and must not be its fate.

The Middle East could write a new story of trade and development and democracy. And we stand ready to help. Yet, this progress can only come in an atmosphere of peace. And the United States will work for all the children of Abraham to know the benefits of peace.

Thank you very much.

---

* White House correction.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; and King Abdullah II of Jordan.

Remarks on Trade Promotion Authority Legislation and Extension of the Andean Trade Preference Act

April 4, 2002

Well, thank you, Mr. Secretary. I'm glad I caught you before you packed your bags. [*Laughter*] This morning I sent the Secretary on a very important mission, a mission of peace. And there's no doubt I sent a great man to go accomplish that mission. I'm proud of your service to our country, Colin, and thank you for inviting us to this beautiful hall.

I want to thank you all for coming as well. I appreciate so very much the opportunity to talk about the values and interests of America and the fact that open trade is in our Nation's interest. And open trade helps us all adhere to values that we share, common values, values that call for respect of human rights and values that believe in the worth of each individual and values that hold democracy and freedom dear. I believe strongly in trade. I believe not only is trade in my Nation's interests; I think trade is in the interest of those nations who struggle with poverty, that desire a route out of poverty.

As Colin mentioned, I was in Monterrey, Mexico, recently—we were in Monterrey, Mexico. I said there in Monterrey, this country of ours will provide aid—we're pleased to do so and proud to do so—but direct aid is small in comparison to the benefits of trade; and that not only would we provide direct aid, but in return we expect our friends to adopt the habits that will encourage stability and peace and human rights. And there's nothing better to encourage those habits than trade.

And trade is important for American workers too. Lost in the debate on trade here at home is the fact that many people are able to find better jobs as the result of an active trade policy in the United States.

And so we're here to talk about a way to make sure that our Nation trades and our Nation works with other countries in the world to trade. In order for that—to do so, the United States Senate must pass trade promotion authority. I need that authority. Every day we go by without the authority is another day we are missing opportunities to help our economy, to help our workers, to help our country, to relate to our friends around the world. If the Senate acts to give me trade promotion authority—and I expect them to do so—I will use it to expand commerce and work for higher paying jobs for American workers.

And so today I urge the Senate leadership to lead, to act, and to get this bill to my desk.

I want to thank Secretary Don Evans, who's the Secretary of Commerce, for being here. He's my close friend. We spent a lot of quality time in Midland, Texas, together. He's now representing the commercial interests of our country, and I'm proud of the job he does.

And I want to thank John Walters for being here as well. John is in charge of making sure that the United States drug policy not only is clear but works. And that drug policy says, we'll work with our neighbors to interdict drugs. But in order for a drug policy to be effective, all of us in this country must make it clear to our young that drugs destroy their hopes and opportunities.

I want to thank members of the diplomatic corps who are here. Particularly, I want to thank the Prime Minister of Peru. *Bienvenidos*. It's nice to see you again, sir. Thank you for coming. I have spent a lot of time with members of the ambassadorial corps. I'm a better person for it. I see many friendly faces here. I want to thank you all for coming to support this initiative.

See, I hope—I wish Members of the United States Senate were here to see the members of the diplomatic corps who've showed up for this. They're here because they understand the importance of trade. They're here because they understand the benefits of trade to their own people.

I also want to thank the U.S. exporters who are here, America's business leaders, and

people who understand the benefits of opening up markets. I know that many of you have worked hard to help advance trade around the world, and for that we're grateful.

And we've done a lot last year; we really have. As Colin mentioned, we helped launch a new global—a round of global trade negotiations in Doha. We helped bring China and Taiwan into the World Trade Organization, and that's good. That's important, to recognize and to welcome both countries, both the Republic of Taiwan and of course China, into the World Trade Organization. It's positive; it's a positive development for our country.

We've worked hard to have a free trade agreement with Jordan and bilateral trade agreement with Vietnam.

We reinvigorated trade negotiations of the free trade area of the Americas in Quebec City, as Colin pointed out. I thought those were very constructive discussions we had with your leaders. It was my chance to—my first chance to meet them. And it was—an interesting thing about that meeting, by the way, is that every country in our hemisphere was represented, except one. We welcomed every country into the meeting that had democratically elected leadership. One notable absence, I might add, Cuba; they don't democratically elect their leader. And the first, most important thing we discussed, besides preserving democracy in our hemisphere, was trade—how to encourage more free trade. And that was a positive development.

We're also in negotiations now with Chile and Singapore on free trade agreements.

And so we're now making good progress, but we've got to continue the momentum. I need the support of Congress on two urgent matters, trade promotion authority and the Andean Trade Preference Act. Both are awaiting action in the Senate. Both sit waiting for the Senate to act, and both are essential to the economy of the United States.

The trade promotion authority—sometimes Members of Congress and I think people don't pay much attention to the issue, don't really understand how it works. The trade promotion authority gives the executive branch the right to negotiate trade agreements, but Congress has the final authority to approve the agreements. It's not by granting me TPA that all of a sudden they've dealt themselves out of the mix; quite the contrary. If they pass it, they've dealt themselves into the mix. They have a chance to ratify, up or down, a treaty.

But the good thing about TPA is it allows me to negotiate or my administration negotiate, and then Congress gets to vote on the terms, up or down. And that's important for the nations represented in this world. It gives them confidence to negotiate a treaty with the United States without it being fine-tuned by numerous experts on the Hill, on what is right or wrong about trade.

It's important to have a platform for trade, and TPA provides that. Five Presidents before me, Republicans and Democrats, have had this advantage in trade negotiations—five of them. For two decades, trade promotion authority was a bipartisan commitment. It wasn't a political issue. It was a commitment, because it represented our national interest in expanding foreign markets. Those years saw many successes, and during the ninties, about one-quarter of our economic growth came as a result of exports. Our two major trade agreements, NAFTA and the Uruguay round, have improved the average standard of living for Americans.

As importantly, NAFTA improved the average standard of living for Mexico and Canada. You see, the best policy for the United States is to hope our own neighborhood is prosperous. A prosperous and vibrant Mexico is good for the United States. You want your neighbors to do well. You want your neighborhood to be peaceful and prosperous, and NAFTA helped do that.

The other thing that's interesting about trade is, people think about trade, and they think, "Well, trade is only good for big companies; only the multinational companies benefit from trade." I don't believe that's true. I know that since the role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish and realize his or her dreams, that trade opens up opportunities for the entrepreneur. And here's one example.

Excel Holdings is a company based in Leesburg, Virginia. We've got the owner here, which I'm about to name him here pretty quick. And I can see his wife and

two—and son and daughter, I might add. Their job—let me just say, last year, they signed a $35 million contract with a Mexican distributor. Excel's product serves an important purpose, as it can produce up to 5,000 gallons of purified drinking water each day.

Today, Excel maintains distributors in 13 countries. The owner, a fellow who came to the United States from Egypt, Hisham Fawzi, he's with us. Hisham, thank you for coming. Here's a guy who had a dream; he wanted to build and own his own company. That's an important part of the American experience, owning your own business, coming up with a good idea and working hard to see to it that the good idea works. His idea, obviously, included markets around the world. In order for his business to succeed, he needed trade in more markets.

There are thousands of entrepreneurs in America who benefit from trade. Trade is not just good for mega-corporate America. Trade is very good for farmers and ranchers and entrepreneurs, like our guest here today. I want to thank you for coming, and thank you for working hard to realize the American Dream, and good luck in your business.

In 8 years since the TPA, the trade promotion authority, expired, we have missed a lot of opportunity in America. And it's cost—and when you miss opportunity, it tends to affect the average worker in our country.

More than 150 regional free trade and customs agreements exist throughout the world. The European Union is party to 31 of them; Mexico is party to 10; the world's largest economy is party to 3. While we've been marking time, our competitors have been working, and they've been signing agreements. While we have been delaying, they've been trading. Listen, I don't fault our trading partners for making progress. As a matter of fact, I would expect our trading partners to work hard to make progress. But what we need to do is to engage in competition ourselves.

You see, when Americans—when there's a level playing field, we can compete. We're good at it. Fearful people build walls around America. Confident people make sure there are no walls. And I am confident. I'm confident in America products. I'm confident in American entrepreneurs. I'm confident in the American worker. I'm confident in the American know-how. I'm confident in America's farmers. I'm confident in America's ranchers. And we need to be a trading nation.

And I'll submit agreements to Congress, when I have this authority, that will be in our Nation's best interests. And we'll work hard to make sure we have good trade agreements that benefit both America and our trading partners. And if Congress doesn't like it, they can turn it down, but I need the authority. It's in our country's interest that I have the authority.

And it's also in our interest to bring confidence to countries around the world, to realize we're serious about it when we speak—countries in our own neighborhood. I mean, trade promotion authority will help us establish the free trade agreement of the Americas. And that's going to be in our country's interests, in our neighborhood's interests to do that as well.

The other thing that's important about trade for our country to understand is that people who trade with America benefit. Trade is just not a one-way street. It is a positive relationship. It's important for Americans to understand that by trade, we help people, and we help poor people, and we help people get lifted out of poverty.

Listen, we're a compassionate nation. There are a lot of people in our country who deeply care about Africa and countries in Africa, who deeply care about South America and Central America. These are countries that are fine countries, work hard, but they're poor countries. And if you're concerned about helping people help themselves, we've got to trade with the developing world. And the facts are fantastic. The trade with the African nations as a result of AGOA has been a billion dollars' worth of new commerce. It's the beginning of what we all hope is a prosperity, a boom in prosperity in parts of the world that have not been prosperous.

Oh, there's a lot of talk I hear about labor and environmental agreements. A prosperous nation is one more likely to take care of its workers. And a prosperous nation is one more likely, much more likely, to be able to afford the technology necessary to protect the environment.

And then, of course, trade creates the habits of freedom. If you welcome trade into your country, it creates the notion of freedom. It gives people, consumers the opportunity to demand product, which is part of a free society. It creates an entrepreneurial class, which is a part of a free society. And the habits of freedom begin to create the expectations of democracy and demands for better democratic institutions. Societies that open to commerce across their borders are more open to democracy within their borders.

And for those of us who care about values, believe in values, not just American values but universal values that promote human dignity, trade is a good way to do that. It's a heck of a lot easier to promote human dignity and human rights through trade than it is through lectures.

And it's very important for us to always remember that a—as I mentioned earlier, a prosperous neighborhood, a democratic neighborhood, and a peaceful neighborhood is in our Nation's interests. As a matter of fact, in all due respect to nations from around the world, the best foreign policy starts with making sure your own neighborhood is prosperous and safe and sound. And I—as Colin mentioned, we have just come back—or a while ago came back from a meeting with our friends in Central America and our friends in the Andean nations. And we had very constructive dialog, but let me tell you what I heard.

I heard fine, democratically elected leaders who are troubled by the fact that the United States Congress cannot yet respond to their simple desire to trade, their desire to expand and extend the Andean Trade Preference Act. It is important for these nations—and all you've got to do is ask the Prime Minister or the Ambassadors from the four countries with whom I met—ask them the facts. That's what I ask the Senate to do. What does the Andean Trade Preference Act mean to nations that protect and defend democracy and, at the same time, fight off narcotraffickers? Trade in this instance not only is important for their economies; it is important for their security.

It is important that these nations be given market access so they can develop products other than coca, that the workers in their countries are not prone to need to work in the narcotics industry. If we're serious about dealing with narcotics, not only will we work to reduce demand, as John Walters is going to do, but we've got to work in a constructive way, in a real way, with the Andean nations. And that means not only to work on interdiction, but it means helping these nations through trade and develop substitute products—products that can be substituted for the quick buck in narcotics.

I hope Congress understands that. I hope Congress understands that the Andean Trade Preference Act is a crucial part of making sure that our hemisphere is democratic and free and stable and secure. The United States Senate needs to affirm America's trade leadership and bring both measures I've talked about today, the trade promotion authority and the Andean Trade Preference Act, to the Floor by April 22d.

Now, I've talked to enough Members of the Senate, as have my staff, to know that there's enough Republicans and Democrats to pass both bills. And therefore the time of delay is over. By April 22d, I'd like to see the debate and get them passed. These bills are good for America; these bills are good for our friends. The time of delay must end.

And by approving these measures, and other measures such as the Generalized System of Preferences and an enhanced African trade bill, we will stand squarely with our friends in the world, recognizing that when we work together and when we trade together, the whole world can be more prosperous. We've got to seize the moment.

As you know, we fight off incredible terror. And we will. You don't have to worry about this administration. We're determined, and we're going to win against terror. And we've also got to fight off poverty and despair and hopelessness, and one way to do that is to encourage trade.

I want to thank you all for giving me a chance to come and share my thoughts. May God bless not only America but all the nations of the world.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:15 p.m. in the Benjamin Franklin Room at the Department of State. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Roberto Danino of Peru; and Sherri Fawzi,

wife of Hisham Fawzi, and their children, Kareem and Sarah.

Message on the Observance of the Anniversary of the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

April 4, 2002

Today, as we mark the 34th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I join my fellow Americans in remembering Dr. King and renewing his call for equality and justice for all our citizens.

Dr. King was a man of deep faith who dedicated his life to a crucial and just cause that changed this Nation. He graciously and peacefully called for our country to abide by the principles of unity, equality, and racial justice for every citizen regardless of race, creed, or background. For too brief a time, our Nation benefited from his work, yet his dream lives on in the hearts of a new generation. I join all citizens in recognizing this important American and his legacy of freedom, equality, and justice for all.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Proclamation—National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, 2002

April 4, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout our Nation's history, patriotic Americans have responded to the call to defend our freedoms. During war and peace, American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines have stood vigilant, prepared, and willing to put themselves in harm's way to protect our Nation. We owe the liberties we have today to their brave service.

Americans who bear the title "Former Prisoner of War" are national heroes. Their service to our country placed them in dire circumstances, causing their capture and imprisonment by our country's enemies. These heroes suffered great adversity and sacrificed much for freedom and for the future of America.

This year, as we remember our former prisoners of war (POWs), we also mark the 60th anniversary of the Bataan Death March. Many of the American soldiers who defended Corregidor, until they were overwhelmed by enemy forces, never made it to prison camp. Many were killed outright, and many died after enduring unspeakable horrors. For those who survived the march, the war entered a new phase: the struggle against their captors. By enduring tremendous hardships and humiliations, and in gallantly supporting their fellow prisoners, these Americans exemplified the best of our Nation's spirit.

The families of POWs also spent long, lonely years without knowing whether they would ever see their loved ones again. As we remember our former POWs, we must also remember their families and friends who suffered along with them. Our Nation must never forget their courage.

Today, former POWs from across America work to assist their former comrades and their families to cope with the painful memories of the suffering that life as a POW inflicted. These courageous heroes have important and powerful stories to share, which can and should serve as an inspiration to succeeding generations. Through these efforts, former POWs have established a simple but enduring legacy, which ensures that their heroism and that of their fallen or missing comrades will not be forgotten.

On National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, we recognize the sacrifice of our former POWs and remember with honor their heroism. We also pledge that we will work to ensure that future generations will understand and appreciate the courage and contributions of these selfless heroes.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 9, 2002, as National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. I call upon all the people of the United States to join me in remembering

former American prisoners of war by honoring the memory of their sacrifices. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

NOTE: At the time of publication, this Proclamation had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register for assignment of a Proclamation number. An original was not available for the verification of the text of this Proclamation.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 30

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had telephone conversations with King Abdullah II of Jordan, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, and Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar of Spain, President of the European Union, concerning the situation in the Middle East. He then had a conference call with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of State Colin Powell.

March 31

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush attended an Easter Sunday service at the Canaan Baptist Church in Crawford. Joining them were their daughter, Jenna, the President's father and mother, former President George H.W. Bush and former First Lady Barbara Bush, and Mrs. Bush's mother, Jenna Welch.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

April 1

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings.

The White House announced that the President will welcome NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson for a meeting and dinner on April 9 to discuss cooperation against terrorism and preparations for the upcoming November NATO summit in Prague, the Czech Republic.

April 2

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia concerning the situation in the Middle East and other issues.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Media, PA. Later, he traveled to Philadelphia, PA. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

April 3

The President declared a major disaster in Virginia and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on March 17–20.

April 4

In the morning, the President had telephone conversations with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom and Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar of Spain, President of the European Union, concerning the situation in the Middle East.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, arriving in the evening.

The President declared a major disaster in Kentucky and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on March 17–21.

April 5

In the morning, the President had a CIA briefing. He then had a telephone conversation with President Ahmet Necdet Sezer of Turkey concerning relief efforts in Afghanistan and the situation in the Middle East.

In the afternoon, the President welcomed Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom to the Bush Ranch.

The President declared a major disaster in Tennessee and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding over the periods of January 23–28 and March 15–20.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released April 1

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson

Released April 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy Margaret Spellings on the President's early childhood learning initiative

Fact sheet: President Announces Early Childhood Initiative

Statement by the Press Secretary on the capture of Abu Zubaydah

Released April 3

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Virginia

Released April 4

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Kentucky

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 1499, H.R. 2739, and H.R. 3985

Fact sheet: The President's Call to Action on Trade

Released April 5

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Tennessee

Acts Approved by the President

Approved March 27*

H.R. 2356 / Public Law 107–155
Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002

Approved March 31

S. 2019 / Public Law 107–156
To extend the authority of the Export-Import Bank until April 30, 2002

Approved April 4

H.R. 1499 / Public Law 107–157
District of Columbia College Access Improvement Act of 2002

H.R. 2739 / Public Law 107–158
To amend Public Law 107–10 to authorize a United States plan to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of the World Health Assembly in May 2002 in Geneva, Switzerland, and for other purposes

H.R. 3985 / Public Law 107–159
To amend the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the leasing of restricted Indian lands for public, religious, educational, recreational, residential, business, and other purposes requiring the grant of long-term leases", approved August 9, 1955, to provide for binding arbitration clauses in leases and contracts related to reservation lands of the Gila River Indian Community

* This public law was not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.

US GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS
Washington DC 20402

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for private use, $300

PRESORTED STANDARD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
GPO
PERMIT NO. G-26

**********ALL FOR STATE MI

A PD COLVI346B DEC 02 R
BONNIE COLVIN
C/O BELL & HOWELL
PO BOX 1346
ANN ARBOR MI 48106